

IN THE CLAIMS:

*Please cancel claims 1, 3-15, and 18-31 and enter new claims 32-46 as shown in the following complete listing:*

**1-31.** (cancelled)

**32.** (new) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:

- a) preparing a hydrogel;
- b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;
- c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;
- d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;
- e) applying a first treatment compound comprising chromium or a chromium-containing compound to the support, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and
- f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,

wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:

- at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3 \mu\text{m}$ ; and
- at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$ , and
- at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$ .

**33.** (new) The process of claim 32, wherein the supported catalyst is activated by at least one of:

- a) halogenation,
- b) thermal activation at  $400^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $1000^{\circ}\text{C}$  in an oxidizing, reducing and/or neutral atmosphere, and
- c) renewed thermal activation at  $400^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $1000^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a reducing atmosphere.

34. (new) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim 32.
35. (new) The supported catalyst of claim 34 wherein the chromium content is from 0.1% to 5% by weight based on the total weight of the supported catalyst.
36. (new) A process which comprises polymerizing or copolymerizing olefins with a supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim 32.
37. (new) The process of claim 36 wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one activator compound.
38. (new) The process of claim 36 wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out as a suspension process.
39. (new) The process of claim 38 wherein the supported catalyst has a mean particle size in the range from 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 350  $\mu\text{m}$ .
40. (new) A process for preparing a supported catalyst which comprises:
  - a) preparing a hydrogel;
  - b) milling the hydrogel to give a finely particulate hydrogel;
  - c) producing a slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel;
  - d) drying the slurry comprising the finely particulate hydrogel thereby forming a support for catalysts;
  - e) applying a first treatment compound comprising a metallocene compound to the support, thereby forming the supported catalyst; and
  - f) optionally, activating the supported catalyst,wherein the finely particulate hydrogel comprises:
  - at least 5% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 3 \mu\text{m}$ ; and
  - at least 40% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 12 \mu\text{m}$ , and
  - at least 75% by volume of the particles, based on the total volume of the particles, have a particle size in the range from  $> 0 \mu\text{m}$  to  $\leq 35 \mu\text{m}$ .

41. (new) The process of claim 40 wherein the metallocene compound comprises a transition metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Cr, Fe, Co, Ni, Zn and Pd.
42. (new) A supported catalyst prepared by the process of claim 40.
43. (new) A process which comprises polymerizing or copolymerizing olefins with the supported catalyst of claim 42.
44. (new) The process of claim 43 wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is a gas-phase fluidized-bed process and the supported catalyst has a mean particle size in the range from 30  $\mu\text{m}$  to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .
45. (new) The process of claim 43 wherein the polymerization or copolymerization is carried out in the presence of at least one organometallic compound.
46. (new) The process of claim 45 wherein the organometallic compound comprises a metal selected from the group consisting of B, Al, Zn and Si.